

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th February 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Price – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Buchanan, Fulford, Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

In attendance:

HCC Cllr Heron

NFDC Cllr Bellows & Cllr Sevier

PCSO Daisy Towers

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

1 member of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman the Vice Chairman, Cllr Price, took the chair.

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Connolly.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2014 and any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Paton and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th January 2014 be signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No issues were raised.

5. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act

PCSO Daisy Towers reported that there has been a drop in reports of anti-social behaviour which might be attributed to the adverse weather conditions. There has, however, been a large rise in the numbers of non-domestic burglaries every 2 weeks or so. A local operation has been launched to catch the culprits.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor was not in attendance.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported that when the weather becomes a little more stable, the HCC gangs will be targeting each area in the county to carry out pothole repairs. It is important that all potholes needing repair are reported as it could be a while afterwards before the gangs are free to return. However, for dangerous potholes, i.e. those that could cause an accident, damage a car or be a danger to cyclists, must continue to be reported and will be prioritised.

The cause of the flooding on the A338 will be properly investigated when the weather becomes calmer.

Cllr Heron advised that ditch maintenance was necessary and the landowner had a responsibility to keep ditches and culverts that adjoined their land from the road clear. The Highways Authority do carry out ditch clearing and clear culverts that lie under the road.

The reduced speed to 50mph on the A338 has been brought in as a response to RTA casualties. Cllr Buchanan asked if a 20mph speed limit could be put in the town. Cllr Heron advised that there were currently 10 HCC pilot schemes dropping the speed limit to 20mph taking place across Hampshire. However, he did not support a 20mph in Fordingbridge as he considered that in a town centre where there were pavements and crossings a 30mph limit was sufficient and traffic was calmed by the road layout, ie it was difficult to go faster. He acknowledged that there were schemes in Salisbury and parts of Dorset and that there were a range of viewpoints on the subject.

Cllr (G) Wilson reported cars driving fast up the High Street when traffic had quietened after the commuter traffic had gone. Cllr Heron suggested a Speedwatch programme, where evidence could be collected and used as an argument for traffic calming measures. Cllr Lewendon, chair of the Transportation Committee advised this was being considered.

Cllr Lewendon expressed concern that the drains had not been cleared on Fryern Court Road for a very long time. Cllr Heron advised that this should be done every 12 months and asked to be emailed of the specific problem.

Cllr Fulford expressed concern for elderly people trying to cross the road and the lack of safe crossing places in many areas of the town.

Cllr Perkins asked where the costs for the pumping operation on the A338 were coming from? Cllr Heron advised that in severe weather, costs for those types of operations came from a corporate contingency fund and not the Highways budget.

Cllr Perkins asked if speed detection vans were allowed to 'hide' from road users view? Cllr Heron explained that there was no policy for this but that they did sometimes park in a secluded position although their objective is to slow down traffic not to try and 'catch' as many motorists as possible.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported that the Cabinet at NFDC had approved the Section 106 monies that the Town Council had requested for various projects.

Cllr Sevier had nothing to report.

Members asked if the Traffic Warden could concentrate on the High Street where double parking was causing a problem. PCSO Towers agreed to request.

Cllr Perkins reported that there were drainage problems in the car park near to the Co-Op.

Cllrs Heron, Bellows & Sevier and PCSO Towers left the meeting.

9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein:

- Planning Committee – 15th January 2014
- General Purposes Committee – 22nd January 2014
- Amenities Committee – 22nd January 2014
- Staff & Remuneration Committee – 28th January 2014
- Finance & Policy Committee – 29th January 2014

All the meeting minutes were received. There were no recommendations, save that of the precept, the next agenda item.

10. To receive a recommendation from the Finance & Policy Committee on the precept for 2014/15

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr Hale and **RESOLVED:** that a precept request for the financial year 2014/15 of £195,257.00 be requested from New Forest District Council.

11. To report on any Health & Safety Issues

Nothing to report.

12. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies and meetings attended

Cllr P Anstey

Recreation Ground – I met with rugby club at Brownsey field to review pitch flooding on: 15th, 16th & 17th Jan. A game was played on 18th. 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th Jan. A game was played on 25th

Email correspondence Whippet Club reference additional camping space.

Email correspondences with Turks football reference, pitch booking, a sign and a 6-a-side competition.

Cllr E Hale

Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers Meeting - Tuesday 21 January

No working groups during January due to the weather. Whitsbury Road site has been flooded. The group has bought an A frame sign to put up where working to advertise the group and hold leaflets.

Bishops Pond - Hoping that programme of work on Bishops Pond can be used for publicity to attract new members.

Graham Long has been checking historic records at Winchester which confirm the Pond is a medieval fish pond

The group is still planning to pay for a machine to excavate the pond to make the water deeper. HCC has no objection to silt being excavated and deposited on site around the edges.

Intend to carry out surveys to check wildlife before any excavation is carried out.

Cllr B Perkins

HCC Working Together event, Winchester - On the 16th Jan 2014 the Mayor and myself attended the Working Together event hosted by H.C.C. at Winchester.

My main interest was the talk on Flood Risk Management. H.C.C. has taken over a lot of responsibility from the Environment Agency. Apparently, this was following the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act which places a number of new duties on the County Council in its new role as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). These duties include:

1. A duty to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
2. A duty to investigate significant flood incidents.
3. A duty to maintain a register of structures that effect flood risk.

H.C.C. responsibilities cover dealing with surface water and ground water flooding and flooding affecting ordinary water courses (i.e. that which are not main rivers). The Environment Agency is still responsible for main rivers and should still work together with all other agencies.

The next speaker talked about infrastructure to support local communities and the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which will replace the 106 payments. It has many implications and it is confusing, but the general feeling is that we will lose control on how and where the collected monies will be spent.

Finally, we had a talk from the Highways dept. which I concluded was a chance to say how good they were in certain areas and what they had achieved but not so much about future planning, which I would like to have heard.

Cllr (A) Wilson

Avonway Community Centre - The Community First New Forest organisation have provided a mini-bus which is based at Avonway and now in use for Fordingbridge residents. This means that Avonway Community Centre do not need to provide a mini-bus which they have been fund raising for.

Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital – Cllr Wilson asked if the Town Council wished for a request to be made for the 'Friends' to purchase a defibrillator to be kept at the Town Hall. Members considered the suggestion but felt that there were other buildings in the High Street area where it could be placed which were open for longer hours, to better serve the Community.

Cllr (G) Wilson

The Fordingbridge Twinning Association are holding their annual fundraiser, a Murder Mystery evening on Saturday 8th February. Tickets have sold out.

13. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

14. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

European Elections – these will be held on Thursday 22nd May and voting will take place from 7am to 10pm. The Town Hall will have 2 polling stations in the Main Hall.

15. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 5th March 2014

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.